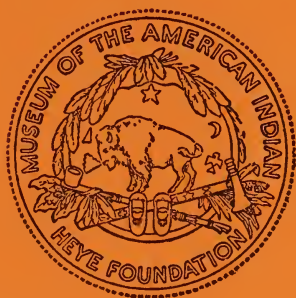


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MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
HEYE FOUNDATION
Vol. XII, No. 1

ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTES
ON
TEXAS CANYON, ARIZONA

BY
WILLIAM SHIRLEY FULTON



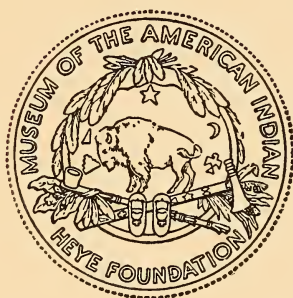
NEW YORK
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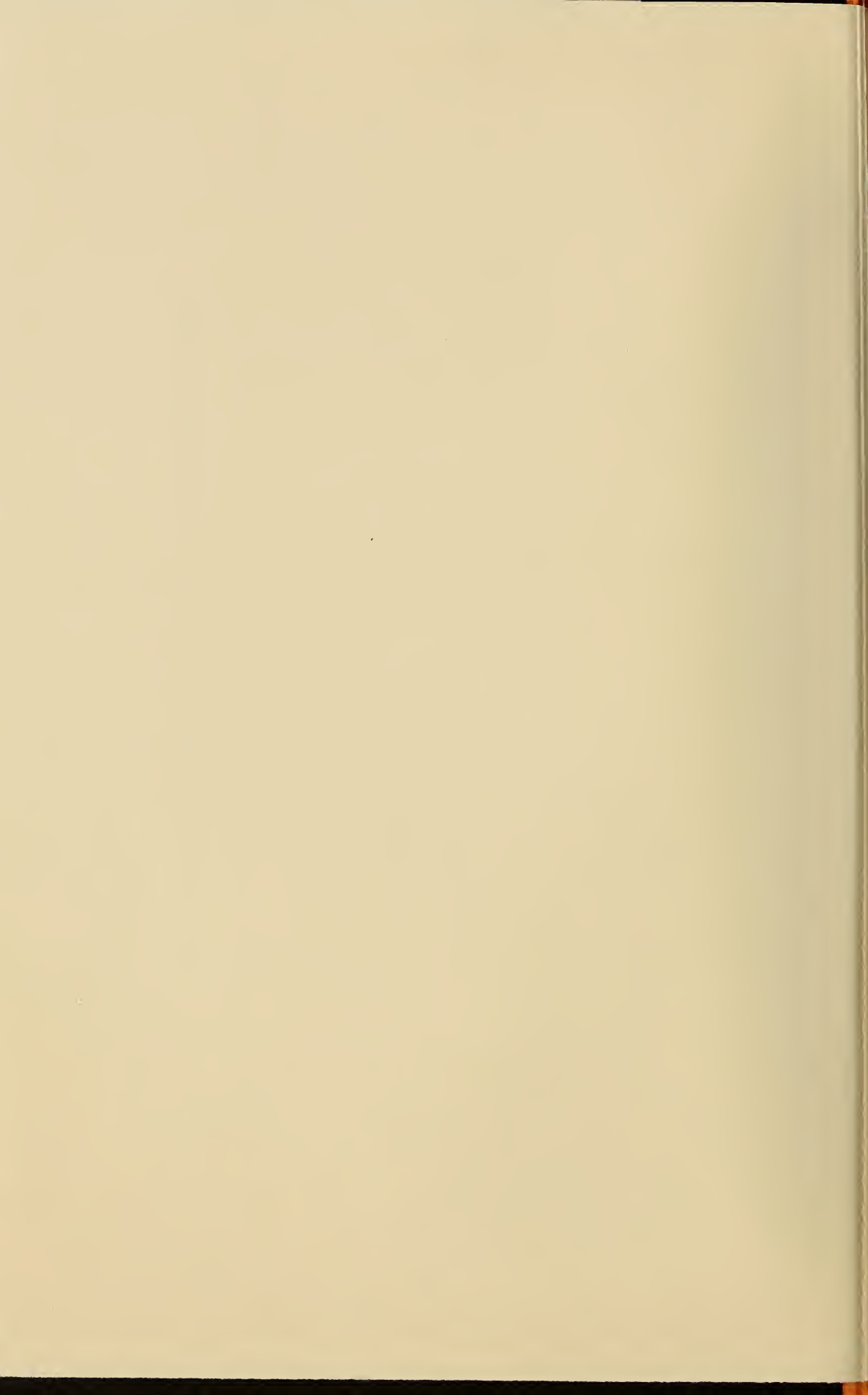
NEW YORK
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
HEYE FOUNDATION

1934

IN MEMORY OF
W. P. B.

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FOREWORD

Due to the enthusiasm and generosity of Mr. William Shirley Fulton, the archeological work recorded in this paper, and the publication of the same, have been made possible.

For many years a collector and student of archeology, Mr. Fulton determined to investigate the site located on his Double F Ranch near Dragoon, Arizona. The results of one season's work have been so important that Mr. Fulton has decided to continue his excavations, so that eventually the whole story of the ancient inhabitants of Texas Canyon may be recorded.

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
HEYER FOUNDATION

GEORGE G. HEYER, *Director*

INTRODUCTION

The advice constantly given by eminent archeologists to present results of past work as soon as is practical without waiting until the excavations are completed, has decided me to collate and publish my findings of one season, even though, obviously, they must prove to be inconclusive. For one reason or another, work might be abandoned or postponed, and the record, consequently, delayed or never made. Then, too, the mere printing of the results so far accomplished may call attention to some missing data which should be collected upon resumption of the work. Furthermore, others working in the same field of endeavor can sooner be in possession of information concerning the findings as developed in the text or through the illustrations. It is with these thoughts particularly in mind that I offer the following brief report.

WILLIAM SHIRLEY FULTON

DRAGOON, ARIZONA



ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTES ON TEXAS CANYON, ARIZONA

THE area covered in this paper is, generally speaking, the drainage of the upper Texas Canyon, near Dragoon, Cochise County, Arizona; being the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 14, Township 16, south range 22, east of the E. and S. R. meridian. But more specifically, the development in the season of 1933 was confined to a flat field on the ranch of the writer. The elevation at this point is about 4,800 feet, and the climate is typically that of the Southwest at a like elevation. In the winter months it is warm in the daytime, cold at night, with an occasional snow flurry, and very little rain. The summer rains generally commence in July, and the summer days are hot, though the nights are comfortable.

On this land there is a spring, which in the memory of the oldest inhabitants of the section was perpetually flowing into what is now a dry wash. There was undoubtedly enough sweet water from this source to supply the needs of a large community, and as the work proceeds, the evidence grows that the people who once lived here were of no inconsiderable number. The ground on which these people concentrated their activities covered, from surface indications, a tract of about twenty acres. Scattered over, and bordering this area are metates and mortar holes in bed rock to the count of over fifty (pl. I). All of this ground is flat, and suitable for residence or farming. The soil is unusually fertile to a depth of from two to five feet.

While the sherds showing on the surface are more or less profuse, there are no surface signs of walls or other evidences of houses. In historic times the land has been

thoroughly cultivated, consequently any rocks from fallen walls, if there were such, have been removed. I was informed by the homesteader of this ranch, that he did plow up many stones and carted them to the nearby wash.

The problem, therefore, was to locate under the surface what might remain of the habitations and artifacts of a prehistoric people. The district to the east of the wash was selected for exploration, for the reason that the western part is occupied by roads, ranch buildings, and orchards. This district was chosen in spite of the fact that the western part seems to be far more promising as to prospective archeological findings.

Work was started early in January at a point marked A on the map. First, a trench wide enough for one man to work in was dug to gravel depth, and the face of the trench was troweled down about twenty inches at a time, and then mucked out. At the end of thirty feet, it was turned west. Ten feet further on a mass of claylike material was encountered, which when dried, proved to be, as suspected, adobe. From here on it was easy to follow this material until it developed into the walls of a pit house (pl. II, A).

At this point it may prove advantageous to describe the construction of this house, since it is identical with all those found subsequently in the main workings of Site I. A hole or cellar was dug to the desired depth, depending on the sand or gravel level. In every instance, at least three or four inches of soil was left or spread over the gravel, probably used to form a floor, though in course of time it was considerably altered through accumulation of ashes and waste matter. At about the middle, lengthwise through the house, close to a side wall, an area more heavily charred was encountered, which indicated a fire bed, though there appeared to be no built-up fireplaces.

The corners were rounded with about a fourteen inch radius. After the cellar had been dug, the vertical sides, starting at the floor level, were plastered directly on the earth with a mud of a sort which hardened to the consistency of modern adobe. It was surface-smoothed before setting. This varies in thickness from two to four inches and rises from sixteen to twenty-four inches. In none of the houses thus far excavated are there any traces of doors or openings in the walls, or of any ramps leading from the surface to the abode, although there are sections in nearly every house where the wall surface is impossible definitely to trace. Though it is possible that in these sections some door or other entrance may have been located, this does not seem likely, because, while the sections are missing, there is no abrupt ending, indicating a jamb. It would seem a probability, in view of the fact that the cellars are so shallow compared with those of some pit-houses in other sections of the Southwest, that entry was made through a door at surface level, by stepping down on to an earthen step. The dimensions of these cellars range from $8' \times 12'$ to $10' \times 14'$. The method of construction of the superstructure is not known, because thus far there are no clues.

After this first pit-house had been cleared, another one was located six feet to the west of it, and still further on, a small section of wall was uncovered, but it was too disintegrated to trace. This condition also existed about six feet north of Pit-House I. In order to determine if any similar houses were built further to the north, a trench one hundred twenty-five feet long was driven in that direction, but while a few choice finds were made, no signs of adobe were discovered, with the exception of one small isolated mass.

Thereafter, work was concentrated around the vicinity of Pit-House I, and gradually to the east and southeast. At E, trenches were made, but no houses or burials were found. After several more trenches proved barren, trench R was resumed in a southerly direction, and it was here that a deposit was located of a small whole olla of plain ware, a large portion of a red-on-buff dish, a large red ware ladle, a fragment of another bowl, and a mano. It would seem that these pottery pieces were in such fragmentary condition when buried.

The next trench to prove of particular interest was Q (pl. II, B). Here, for the first time, was uncovered a normal burial, but with no attendant offerings. This trench yielded five burials, all without accompaniments. In this location, working at a level four feet four inches from the surface, trying to trace a rather poorly defined floor area, a perfectly modeled basin twelve inches in diameter, and about four inches deep, smoothly plastered and without ash residue, was encountered. What the purpose of this was, is problematical, but it may have been used as a water receptacle for some domestic use.

During all operations, sherds, artifacts, and articles of adornment and decoration were uncovered at all levels from the surface to five feet in depth. Detailed descriptions of these items are given later.

The first season's work was exploratory rather than concentrated, and the results warrant the expectation of further success. The period covered in the main working, was from January through May; but subsequent to this time some further work was carried on throughout the year at Sites II, III, and IV (see map). In each of these locations further houses and interesting material were uncovered, but detail of the work, excepting for a description

of some of the artifacts found, will not be attempted until more progress has been made in the excavations.

Who these prehistoric people were, under what conditions and when they lived, are questions to be answered, if possible, through further research. The type of house and the type of red-on-buff pottery indicate the Hohokam Culture of the earlier periods. No beams nor bits of wood have been found by which to date the age through the tree ring calendar.

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES FOUND

Pottery. Only a very few entire or nearly complete pieces of pottery have been thus far unearthed. Plate III shows two small vessels. One (*a*), of the paint-dish type, is of a brown clay and roughly fashioned. It was found 36 in. below the surface in Site IV. The other (*b*) is of a reddish clay and is pinched around the neck into a shape which gives the impression of an owl form. This one was not found in the main workings, but had been washed out from a bank in a neighboring field and is of the type used for holding pigment. A large fragment of a bowl was found in trench F, 15 in. below the surface. It had been burned, but has an almost polished surface, and a decorative treatment can dimly be made out.

Four pottery pieces, two being shown on pl. IV, were found together in trench R, 30 in. below the surface. The olla (pl. IV, *a*) is of plain utility ware; the ladle (pl. IV, *b*) is of red ware. Of the two not illustrated, one is a large bowl of two pattern repeated design red-on-buff, and the other a bowl of red ware.

The major part of an almost round bowl of plain ware. 6 in. in diameter, was found in trench Q, 20 in. below the surface. A crudely formed small plain bowl was found

in trench R. A circular piece of pottery, cut out from the lower portion of an olla, was found in Q. This object was probably utilized as a jar cover, or a mould for forming the base of another olla. It is shown on pl. V, *a*.

The corrugated olla (pl. V, *b*) was found in the bank of the wash in the north field. Another type of ladle (pl. IV, *c*), with inside decoration nearly obliterated, came from trench Q, 30 in. below the surface. A small olla, of a pinkish tone but undecorated (pl. VI, *a*), was unearthed in trench Q at the same depth. A bowl with an interesting design of red-on-buff (pl. VI, *d*) was found nearby and at 30 in. from the surface. With this bowl was an olla (pl. VI, *c*) of red ware, and a small broken dish (pl. VI, *b*) of red-on-buff. No skeletal material was found associated with any of these pieces, and no burial was located within ten feet. The round bowl (pl. IV, *d*) was found in Site II, 28 in. below the surface.

A large number of sherds were found, some of which are shown on pl. VII, but these have not as yet been classified by the author as to percentages of types of the intrusive sherds, practically all are surface finds. However, a very interesting analysis of the sherds found on this location has been made by Mr. Bruce Bryan, and described by him in *El Palacio*, Vol. XXXV, Nos. 11-12, published by the School of American Research, the University of New Mexico. It is hereby quoted by the kind permission of Mr. Bryan and *El Palacio*:

"Fulton Ranch Site (Red-on-Buff)

(Sherds from the plowed surface of the Fulton Ranch Site, including material from several trenches.)

Total Sherds	492
Plainware	45
Red-to-Brown Ware	275

Blackware	14
Corrugated	0
Rubbed Corrugated	106
Incised (Indented Brownware)	1
Red-on-Buff (inside decoration)	12
Red-on-Buff (outside decoration)	5
Red-on-Buff (inside and outside)	1
Total Red-on-Buff	18
Mimbres Black-on-White (outside decoration) ..	3
El Paso Polychrome (Reddish Sandy Ware)	1
Tularosa (type) Corrugated	25
Gila Polychrome	1

(Picked up by Mr. Shirley Fulton owner of ranch.)

Chupadero Black-on-White	1
--------------------------------	---

(Picked up by Mr. Shirley Fulton owner of ranch.)

Unidentified Black-on-White sherd (outside decoration), with broad wavy lines on white slip; paint thin; paste gray and hard; tempering mica and sand, with mica apparent through both slip and paint.

Unidentified Black-on-White sherd (similar to above); black rim; decoration and most of slip worn away.

Percentages

Of Total Sherds

Plainware .....	.09
Red-to-Brown Ware .....	.55
Blackware .....	.02
Rubbed Corrugated .....	.21
Incised .....	.01
Red-on-Buff (all) .....	.03
Mimbres Black-on-White .....	.01
El Paso Polychrome .....	.01
Tularosa Corrugated .....	.05
Gila Polychrome .....	.01
Chupadero Black-on-White .....	.01

1.00

Of Decorated Sherds

Red-on-Buff (all) .....	.75
Mimbres Black-on-White .....	.13
El Paso Polychrome .....	.04
Gila Polychrome .....	.04
Chupadero Black-on-White .....	.04

	1.00

Summary of Type Cultures

Red-on-Buff

3% of total sherds collected.

75% of decorated sherds collected.

Mimbres Black-on-White

1% of total sherds collected.

13% of decorated sherds collected.

Gila Polychrome

1% of total sherds collected.

4% of decorated sherds collected.

Chupadero Black-on-White

1% of total sherds collected.

4% of decorated sherds collected.

Type Site, therefore: Red-on-Buff."

Counters, Whorls, etc. A large number of pottery discs, worked down from sherds, were found in almost every locality. Several of these are pictured on pl. IX. One whorl (*a*), of the corrugated type of pottery, has the outline of a ring or washer definitely impressed around the hole, and was found on the surface. Some of the discs have holes started but not completed, in their centers. These discs vary in diameter from $\frac{3}{4}$ in to $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Clay Figurines and Other Objects. A human face of reddish, baked clay (pl. X, *c*) was found on the surface

near the ranch house. A very crude head of unbaked, gray clay (*b*) was found in Site II, 20 in. below the surface, while within a few feet of it was found a torso (*h*) a trifle too large for the head, and of a slightly different texture. A perfectly modeled bust of a woman (*a*), without a head, of unbaked gray clay, was found just over the corner wall in Pit-House I. A baked red clay representation of a human hand (*g*) was found 15 in. below the surface in Q. As the inside surface is slightly concave, this may have been broken from an ornamented pottery bowl. A broken animal figurine of unbaked clay; and a small animal figurine (*f*), unusual in that it is almost complete, and an ear plug of baked red clay, very well modeled (pl. XIV, *b*), were all found in Site II. An unbaked gray clay bell, with a quartz pebble for a clapper (pl. X, *d*), was found in trench Q, 19 in. below the surface. This bell has a hole through it at its small end, and was probably used as a personal ornament.

Bone. The only articles made of bone thus far discovered are awls, with the possible exception of two, which might have been flaking or rubbing implements. No beads, dice, nor needles were found. A flaking tool with eight notches at about the location where the thumb would fall, put there possibly to aid in the gripping, was found in Site III, 24 in. below the surface. It is well worked and highly polished. A sharp pointed awl, well worked, was found in trench P, 15 in. below the surface. Plate XI, *a*, shows an awl with good point and much polish. An excellent example of an awl (*b*) made from a leg-bone of a deer, was found in trench Q, 30 in. below the surface. An awl (*c*) with a good point, made from a splinter, was found in the same trench, 24 in. from the surface. A rather clumsy awl made from a deer ulna (*e*), but with

a good point, as well as an implement (*d*), possibly a flaking tool, were found in trench R.

Shell Ornaments. The percentage of personal ornaments made from various types of shells is surprisingly large compared with small ornaments of stone. Some fragments were found in nearly every trench. The majority of these ornaments were bracelets, earrings, or pendants (pls. XII and XIII). Among them was a bird type of ornament (pl. XIII, *d*), and a small cross shaped pendant (pl. XIII, *b*), worked out of haliotis shell. The largest bracelet is shown on pl. XII, *a*, with two fragments of smaller ones (*c* and *d*), and a shell finger ring (*b*). Three pierced shells, two bi-valve shells drilled for suspension (pl. XIII, *e* and *f*), and a worked shell pendant (pl. XIII, *a*) were also recovered. The majority of the intact pieces were found in trenches Q and R, and most of them at a comparatively low level, three to four feet deep.

Stone Ornaments. Not many stone ornaments were found. One, a black slate pendant, was found in trench Q, 24 in. below the surface. Another (pl. XIV, *f*) was found on the surface. A pendant (*d*) of banded limestone, was found on the surface of an adjoining field. A fine blade of chipped moss agate (pl. XV, *b*) was found in trench Q, 4 feet below the surface. It seems possible that this was a pendant, but a different opinion calls it an artifact, such as a scraper or a spear head. Another stone pendant (pl. XIV, *e*), is needle-shaped of slate, finely smoothed, and was found in Q, 30 in. below the surface. Two turquoise pendants (pl. XIV, *a* and *c*) were found in the same trench just at gravel level.

Stone Tablets, Pallettes, or Plaques. This classification is represented by only four specimens; one, an unetched stone smoothly finished on both sides and with all edges rounded, was found near the surface in Site III. Another

(pl. XIV, *h*), of schist, nearly entire, with an incised design about the edge, was also found near the surface in Site I. Another fragment (*g*) also has incised framing, and is of slate. It was found on the surface. One more fragment (*i*) was obtained from the side of a wash on adjoining property about 20 in. below the surface. All of these tablets are rather crude and are without raised edges.

Metates, Manos. A considerable number of broken metates were dug up at all working places, but as yet not a whole one has been excavated. On the other hand, many manos (pl. XVI, *A*) in good condition, made from various rock substances, sandstone, scoria, granite, etc., were found. Whole metates of various sizes, are found on the surface.

Mortars and Pestles. A small scoria mortar (pl. XVII, *a*) probably used for crushing pigment, was found in trench P 18 in. below the surface, and nearby was a well made, small pestle (pl. XVIII, *c*) of granite. It would seem likely that these two were used as a unit. Another scoria mortar, or dish, was found in trench Q. This dish apparently was originally a mano, and subsequently was hollowed out for other purposes. Its base is flat and worn smooth. An incised mortar (pl. XVII, *d*) was found in Site II, 30 in. below the surface. It is of tufa. Embedded in the gravel in trench F, and 40 in. below the surface, was found a schist pestle (pl. XVIII, *d*) with both ends well rounded from much use. It is irregular in shape, and no attempt was made at a uniform thickness or fine finish. Three stone implements (pl. XVIII, *a*, *b* and *e*) come under the classification of pestles. One (*a*) is of pink granite, and its upper part is worked down for convenient hand gripping. Another (*b*) is also of granite, but of a gray color, and was probably used for heavy crushing. The third (*e*) has a good grip, and is of scoria.

Axes. Only three examples were recovered. A rather crude grooved axe was found in the wash. It is of a greenish volcanic rock with a groove three quarters around its circumference. The cutting edge is badly broken. Another grooved axe (pl. XIX, *b*) of close grained granite, was found in trench Q, 30 in. below the surface. It is in fair condition, with a good cutting edge. Subsequent to its use as an axe, the head of it shows that it had also been used extensively as a hammer-stone. While extending trench F, there was unearthed a most perfect grooved axe (pl. XIX, *a*) with mallet head, deep cut groove around three sides, and a longitudinal groove. The material is of close grained, greenish granite, and discloses a craftsmanship of untiring toil and ability.

Chipped Points. Not a great many points were found, but the workmanship is of good quality. A few are pictured in pl. XV. Some of these are worthy of particular mention. One (*a*) is of a gray flint, and is perfectly worked. Another (*c*) is of chalcedony, and is deeply serrated. Another (*d*) is of brown flint and is probably part of a drill point.

Miscellaneous Stone Objects. A stone disc of close grained granite was found on the floor area of a pit-house north of Pit-Houses I and II. One side of it was embedded in the burned floor, and the other side was covered with clean sand. It is perfect in shape, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, 1 in. thick, with well rounded circumference. A problematical stone implement or breast ornament (pl. XX) was found on the surface. It has two drilled holes near the thickest edge. Only on one side of the cutting edge is there any sign of wear, and on that side it is smoothly worn from much usage. The thick edge of the same side also shows wear. Another stone tool was found in trench R. This may have been originally a pottery smoother,

but later on had some service as a pecker or delicate hammering tool. Only one hammerstone (pl. XVI, *b*) with sides, pitted was discovered. A large number of stone balls (pl. XVI, B), all about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 3 in. in diameter, were found both on and under the surface. The most perfect are of quartz, and could have been used as hammerstones, or even in some game. Others, of different materials, are not so truly shaped. One large stone ball was found on the floor of Pit-House II. It is about 7 in. in diameter, and almost perfectly spherical, and may have been used for heavy crushing of corn.

The foregoing is presented as a record of the results of the work on this site for 1933, and it is hoped that much additional information will be obtained during ensuing seasons.

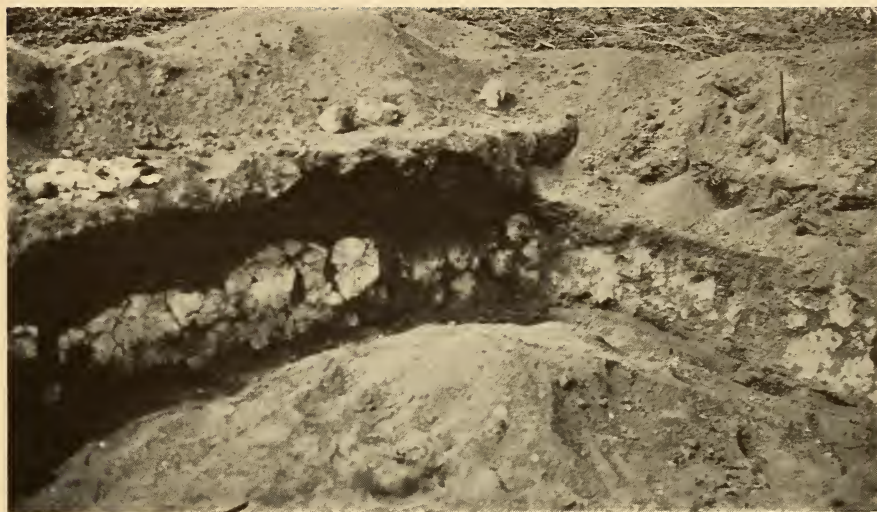






MORTARS AND METATES IN BED ROCK.





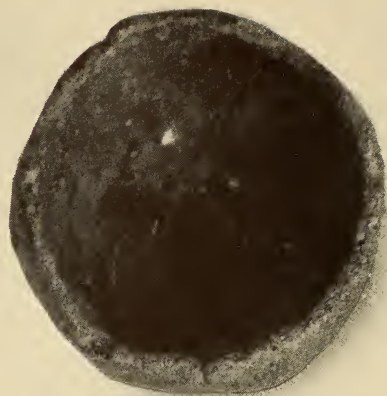
A



B

A. WALLS OF PITHOUSE NO. 1.
B. TRENCH Q, SITE I.



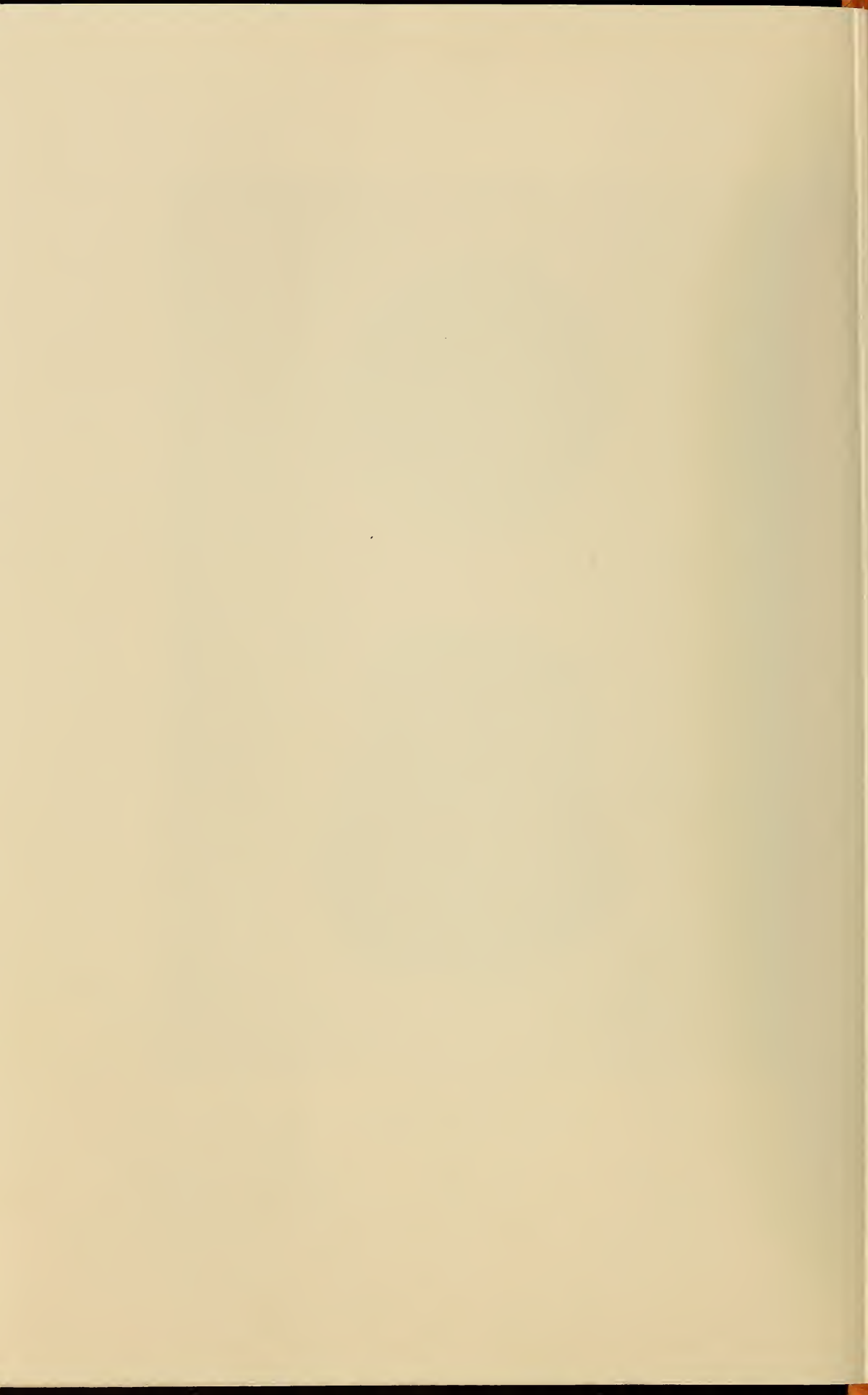


a



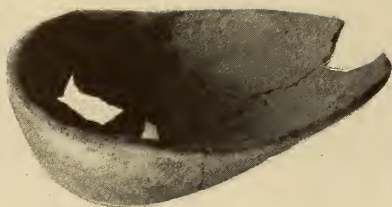
b

POTTERY JARS.
(HEIGHT OF B, 2½ INCHES.)

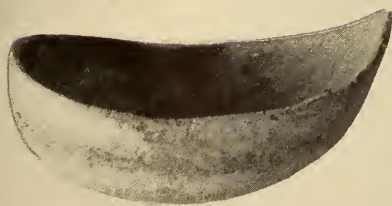




a



b



c



d

A. DIAMETER, $6\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES; B. LENGTH, $7\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES;
C. LENGTH, 7 INCHES; D. DIAMETER, 7 INCHES.





a



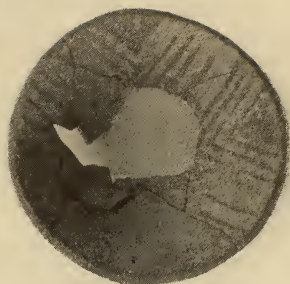
b

A. LOWER PART OF POTTERY VESSEL. (DIAMETER, $7\frac{5}{8}$ INCHES.)
(DIAMETER OF B, $10\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES.)





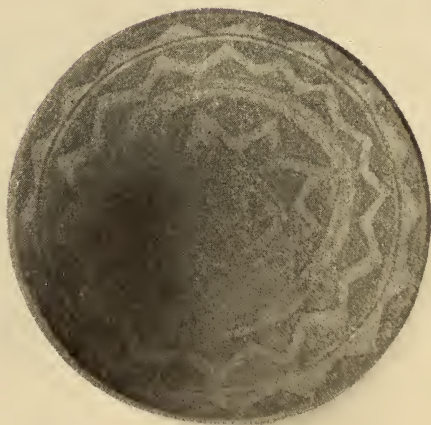
a



b

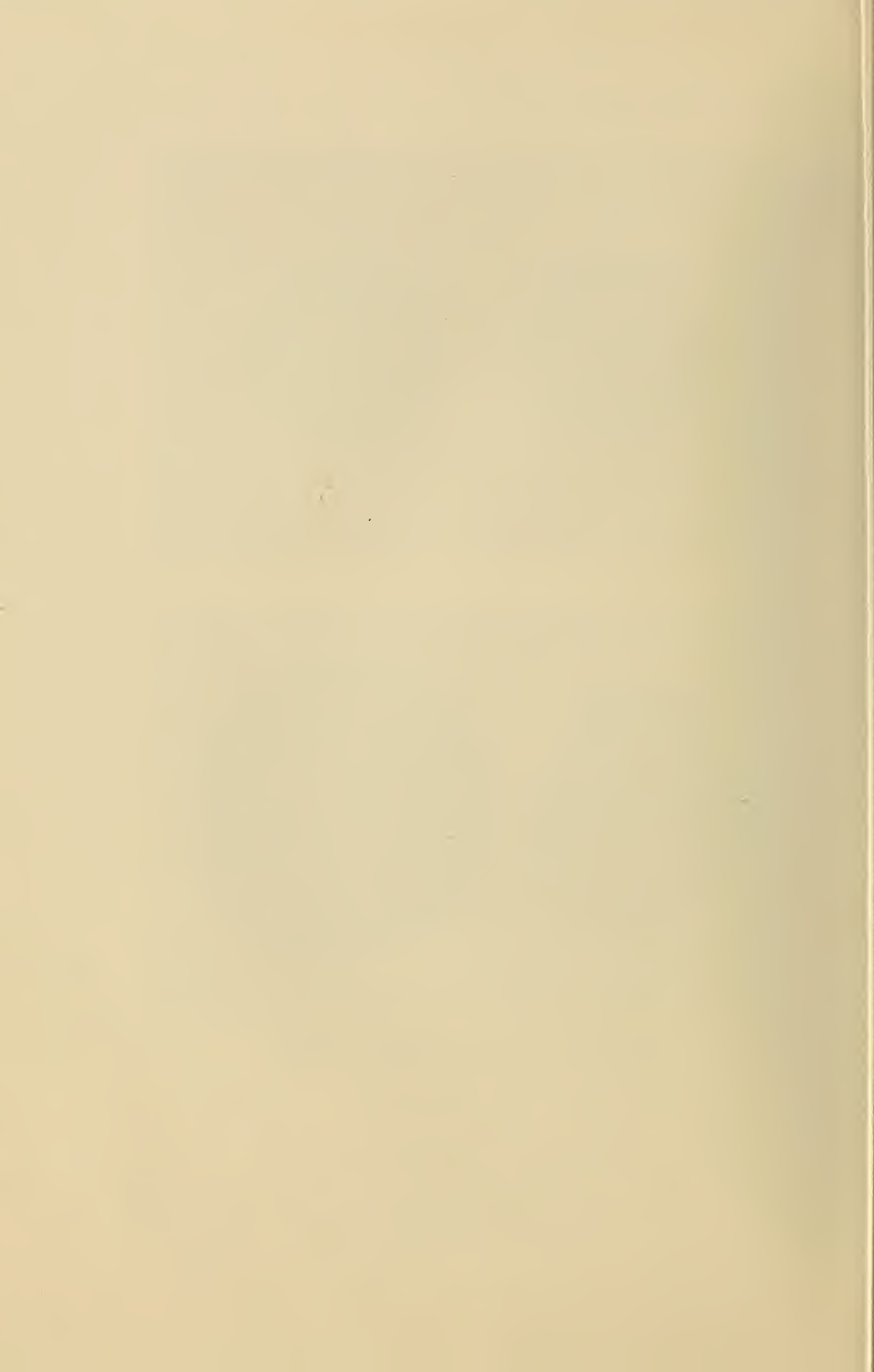


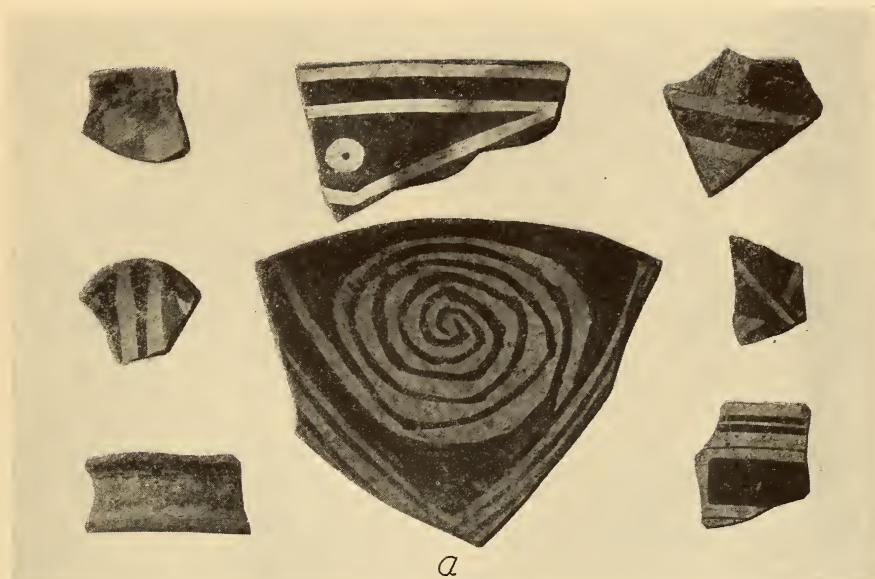
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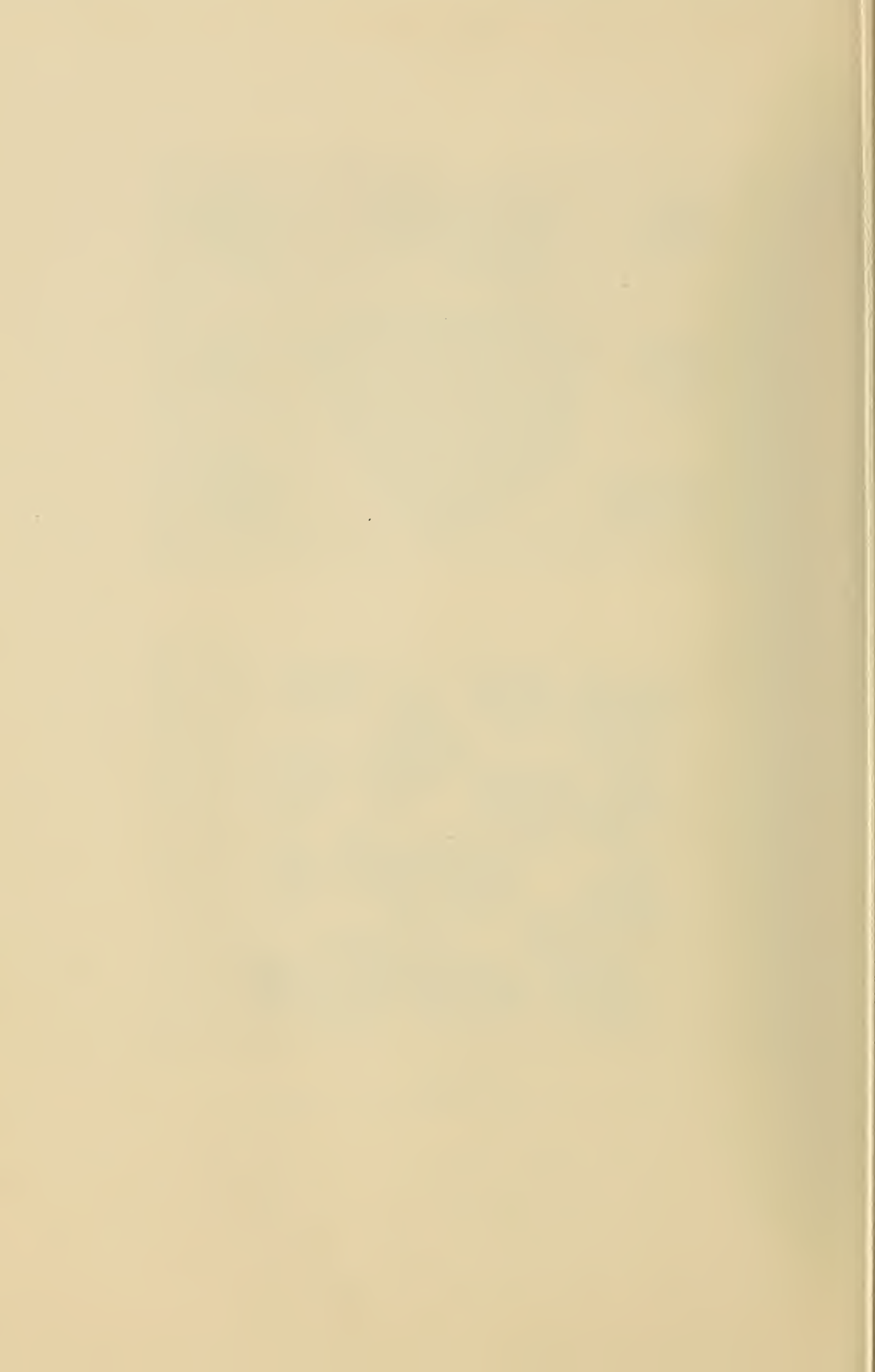
d

A. DIAMETER, $5\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES; B. DIAMETER, $5\frac{3}{8}$ INCHES;
C. DIAMETER, $7\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES; D. DIAMETER, 9 INCHES.



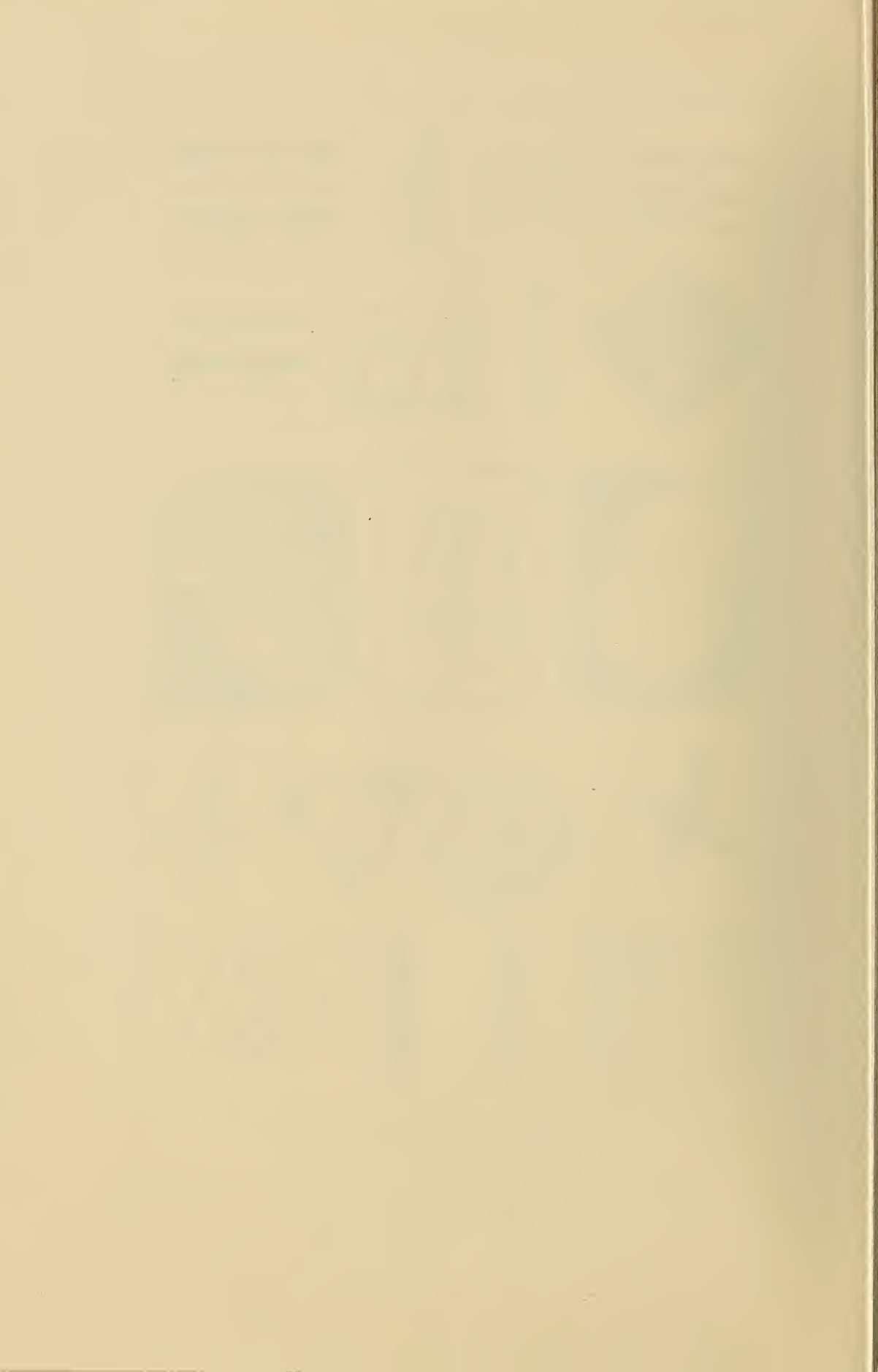


POTSHERDS.
WIDTH OF LARGEST SPECIMEN, OF A, $6\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES.





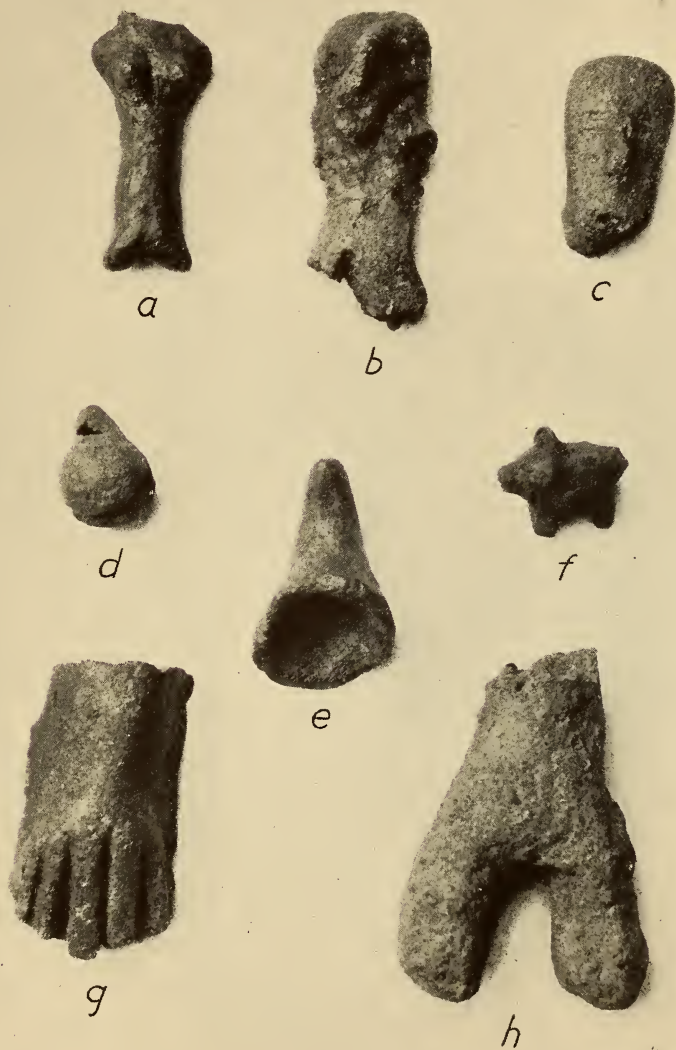
MOTIFS APPEARING ON RED-ON-BUFF POTTERY.



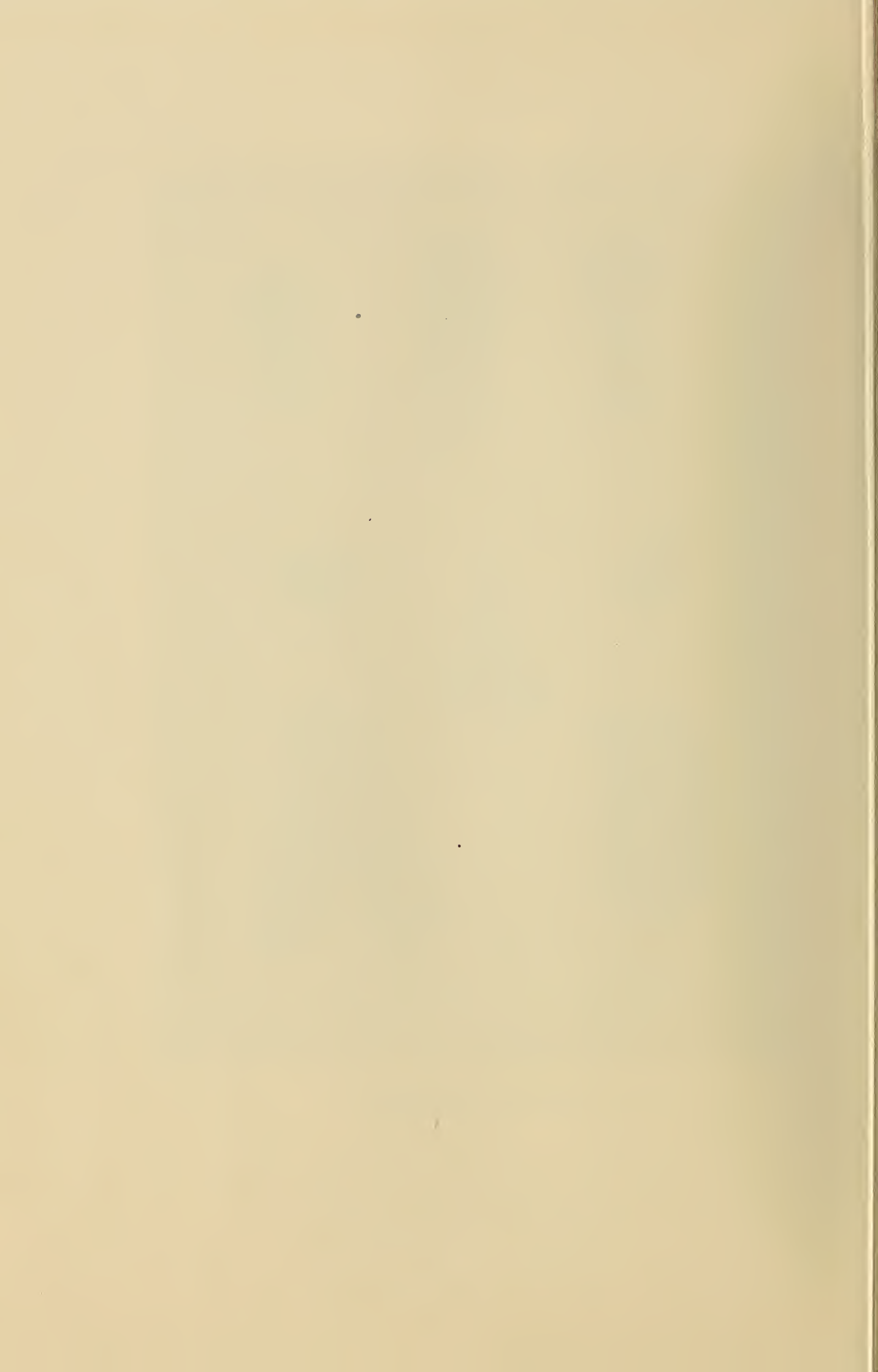


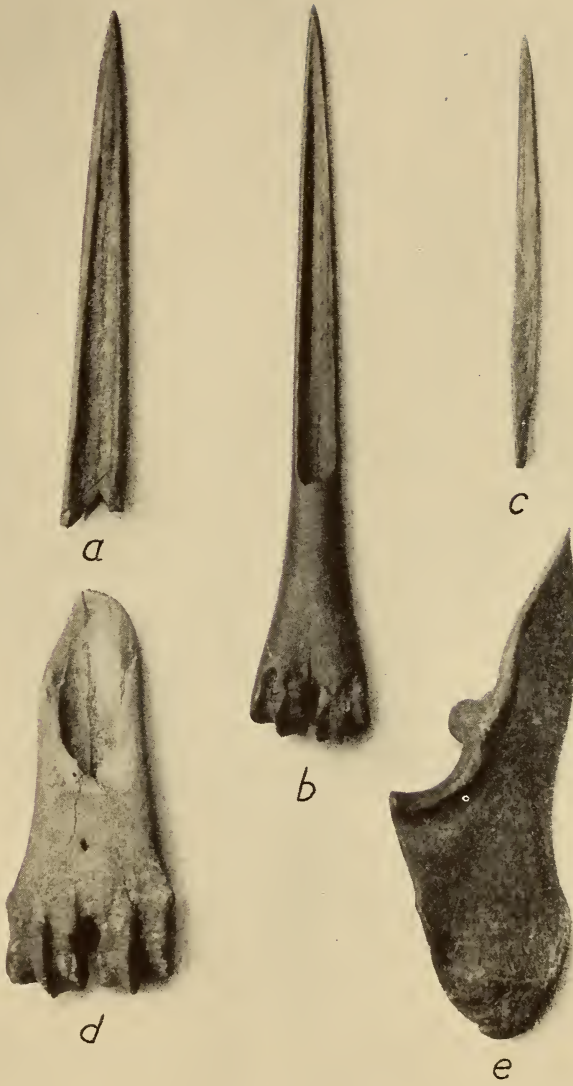
POTTERY DISCS.
(DIAMETER OF A, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ INCHES.)



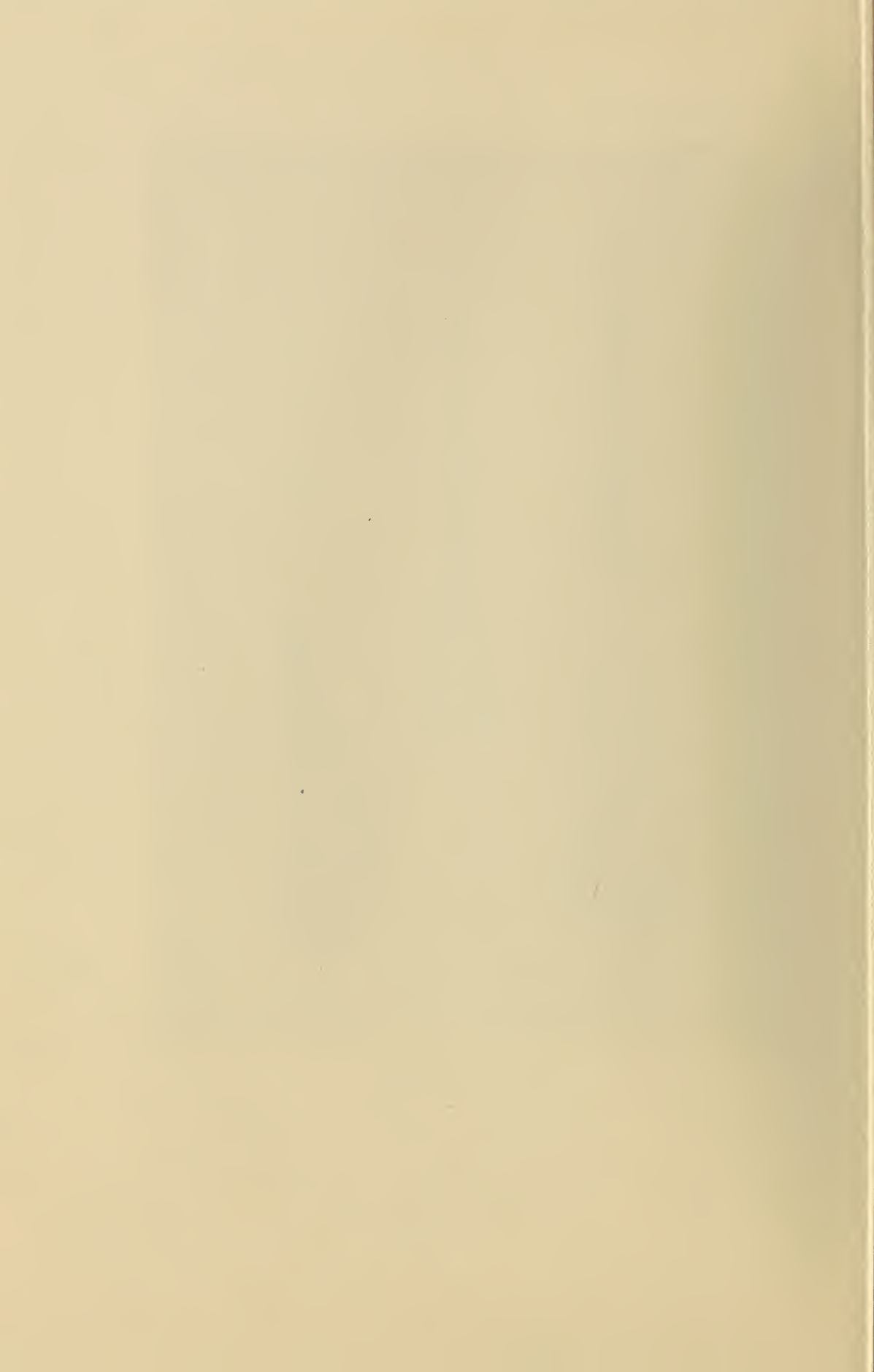


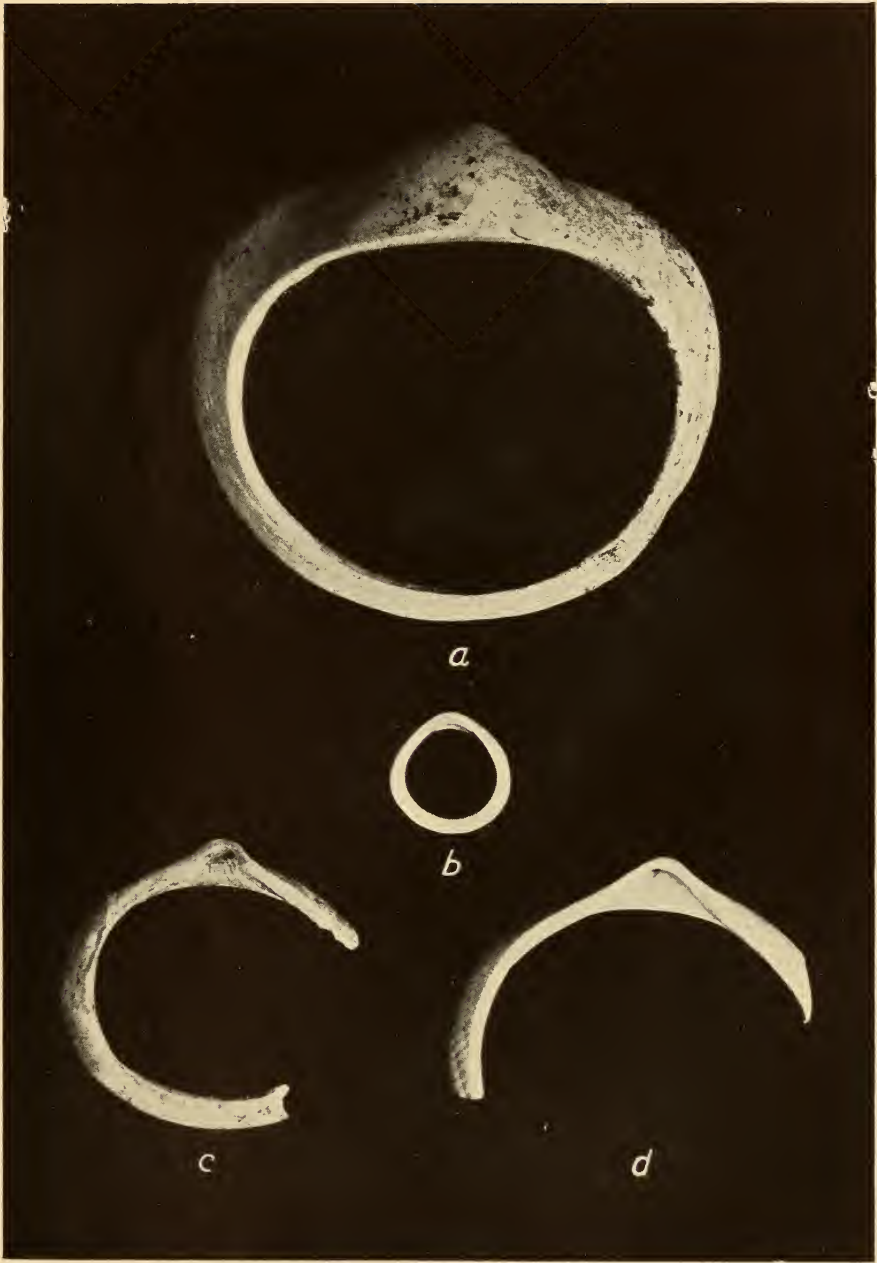
MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS OF POTTERY.
(HEIGHT OF H, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES.)





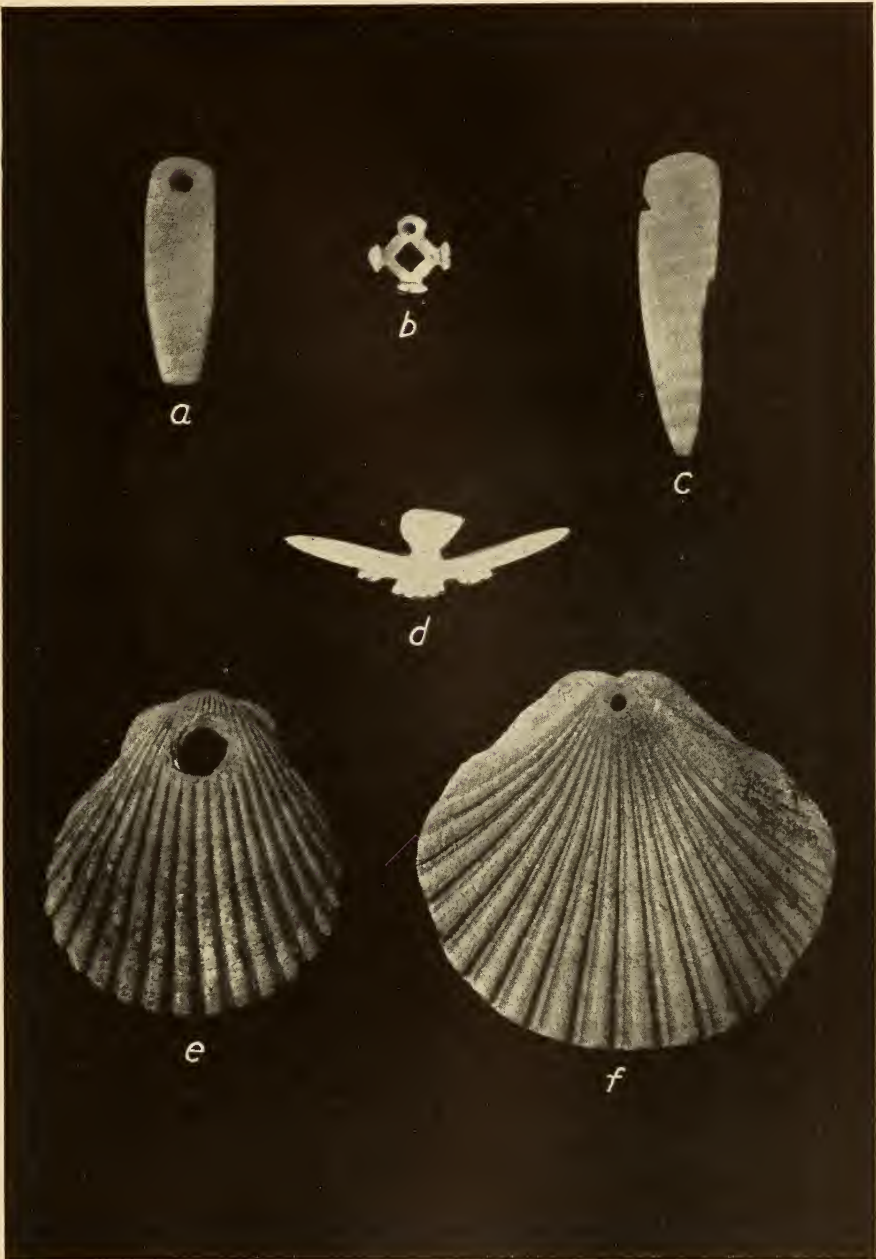
BONE IMPLEMENTS.
(LENGTH OF B, $6\frac{11}{16}$ INCHES.)



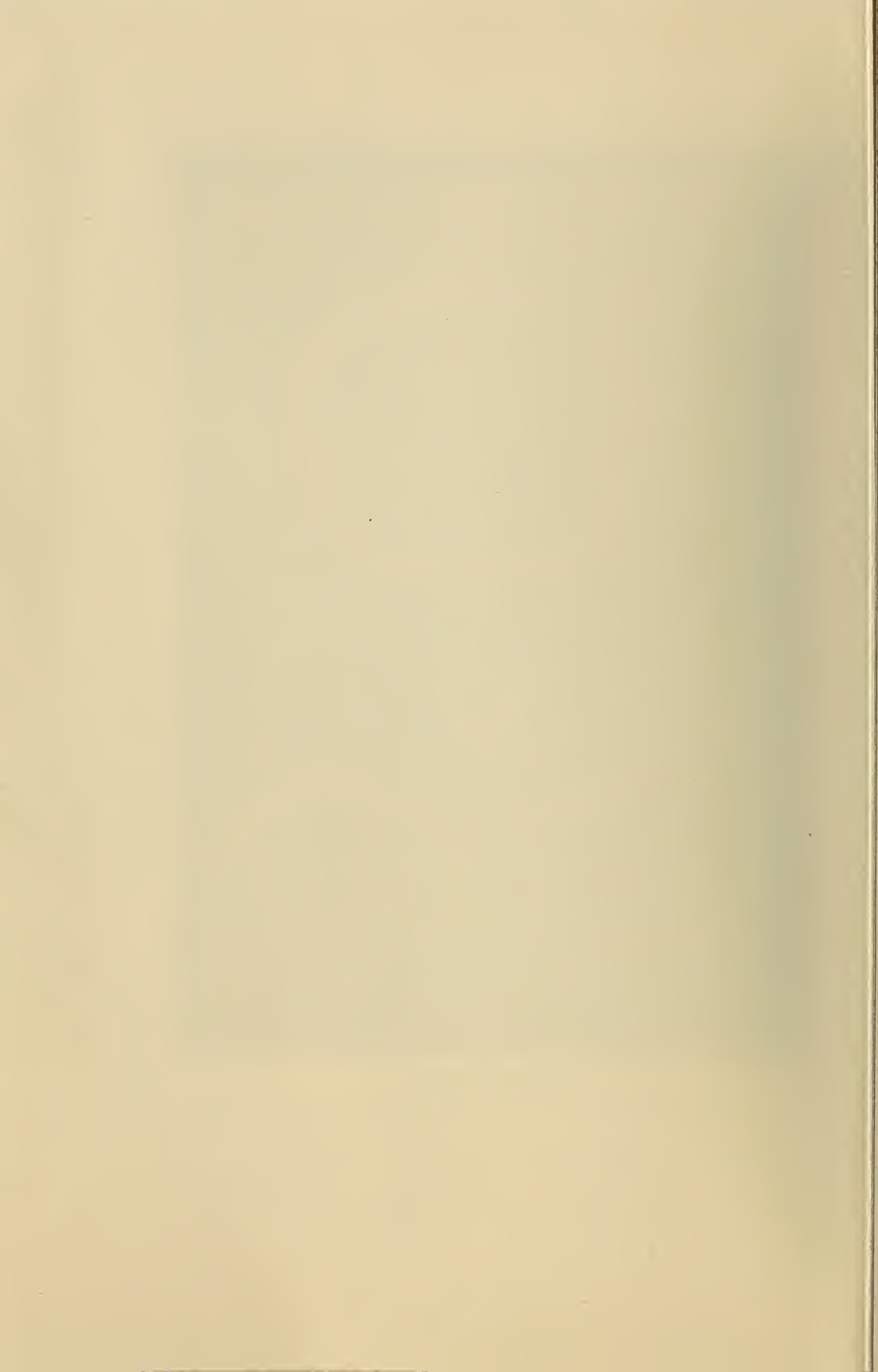


SHELL ORNAMENTS.
(WIDTH OF A, $3\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES.)



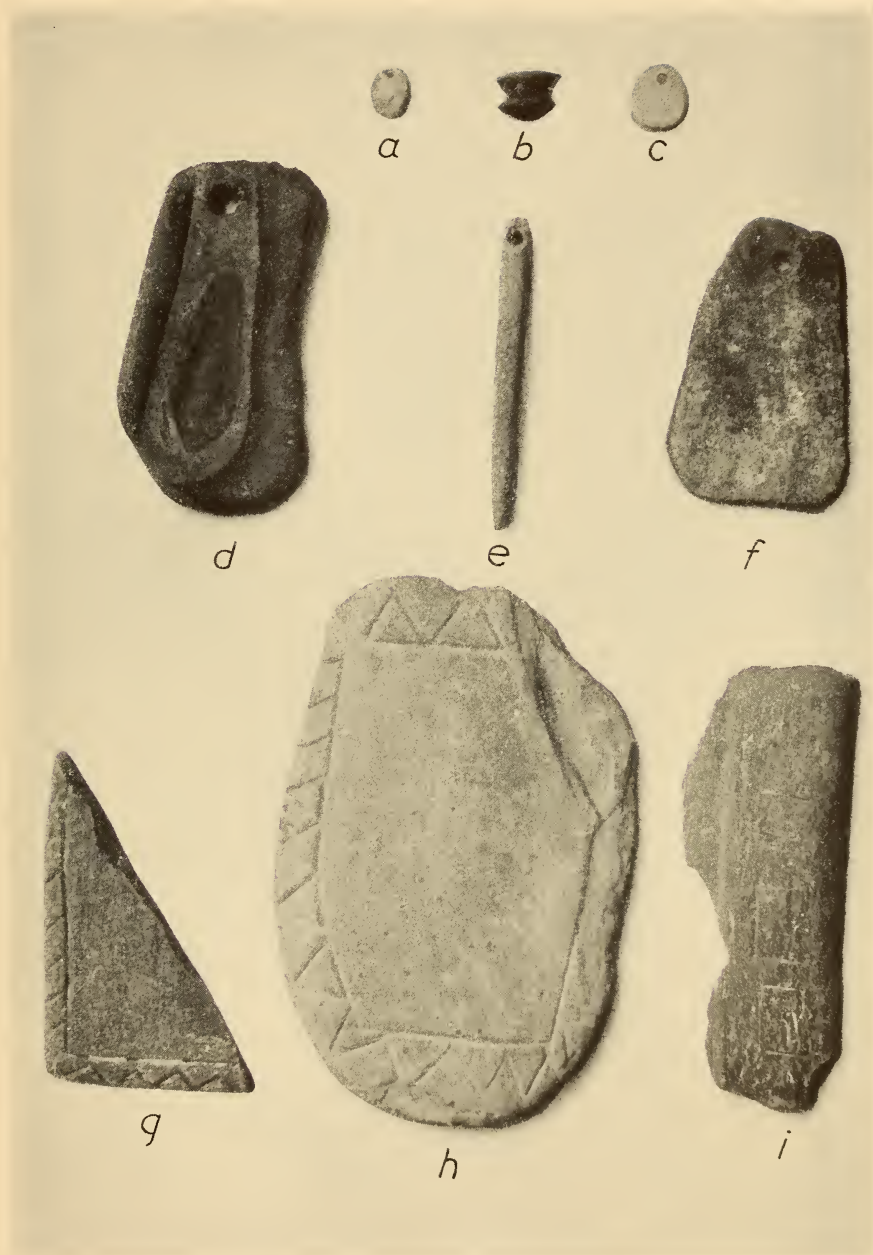


SHELL PENDANTS.
(LENGTH OF C, $1\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES.)



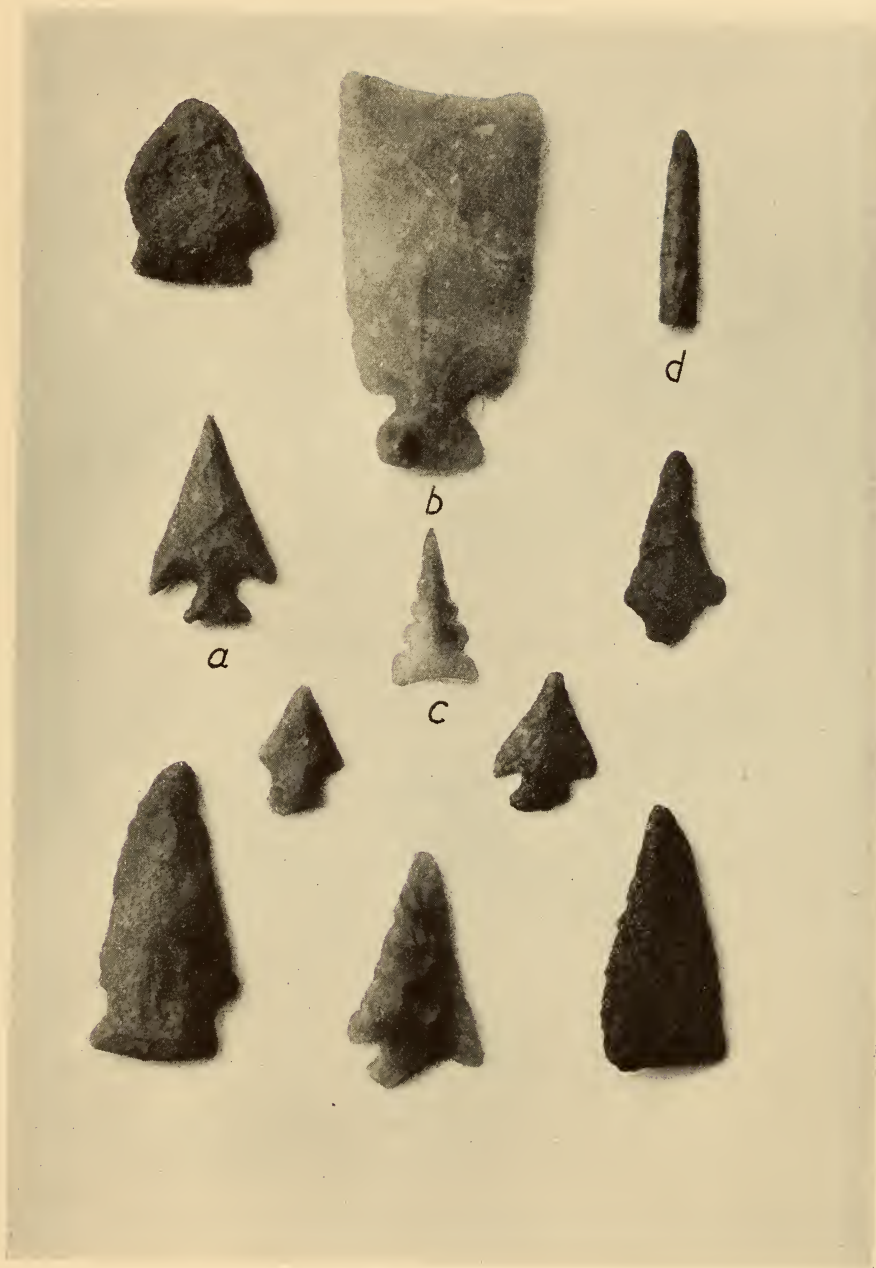


SHELL PENDANTS.
(LENGTH OF C, $1\frac{7}{8}$ INCHES.)

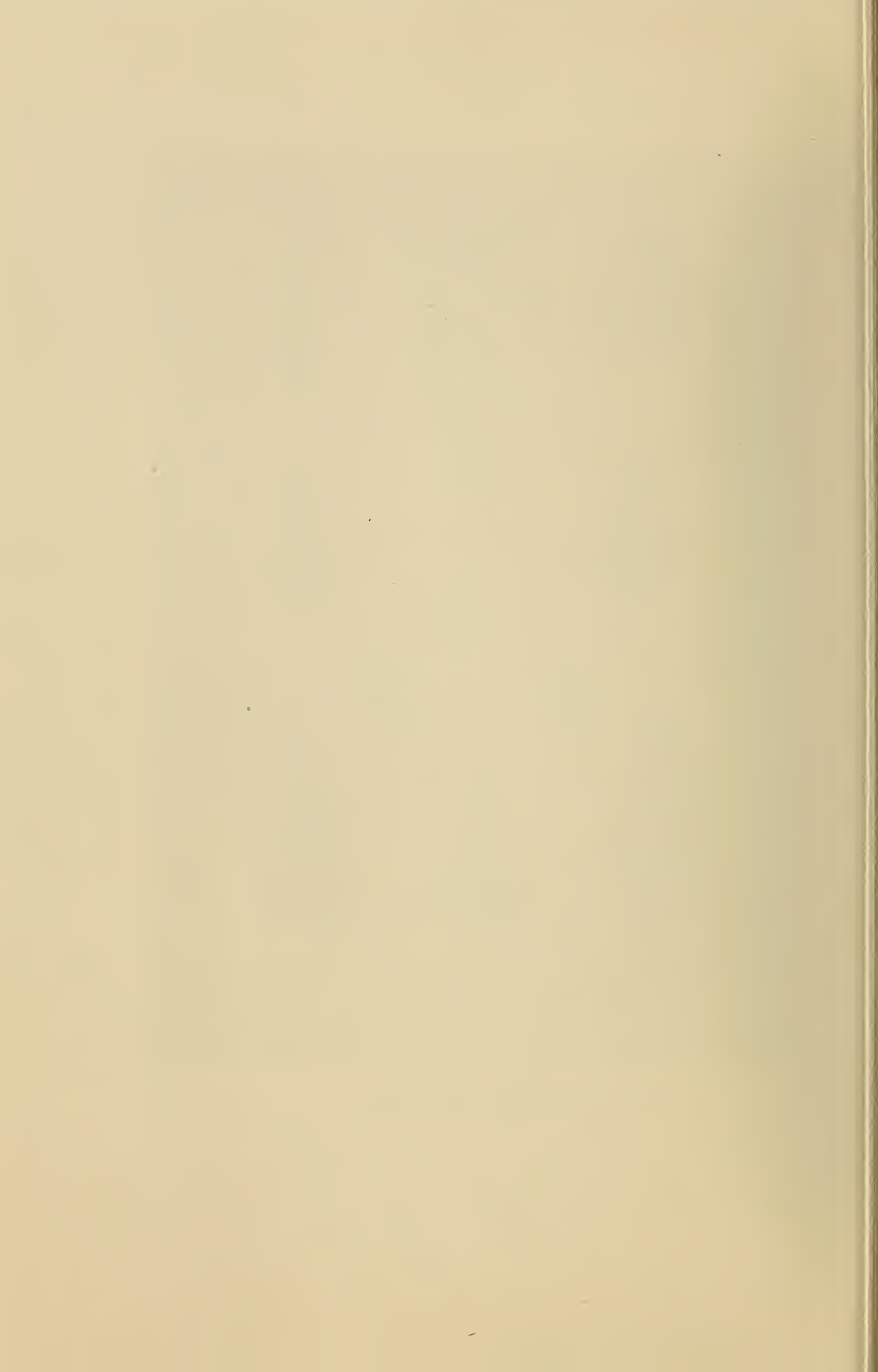


POTTERY EAR PLUG, AND OBJECTS OF STONE.
 (LENGTH OF H, 3½ INCHES.)





CHIPPED STONE POINTS.
(LENGTH OF B, $2\frac{3}{4}$ INCHES.)





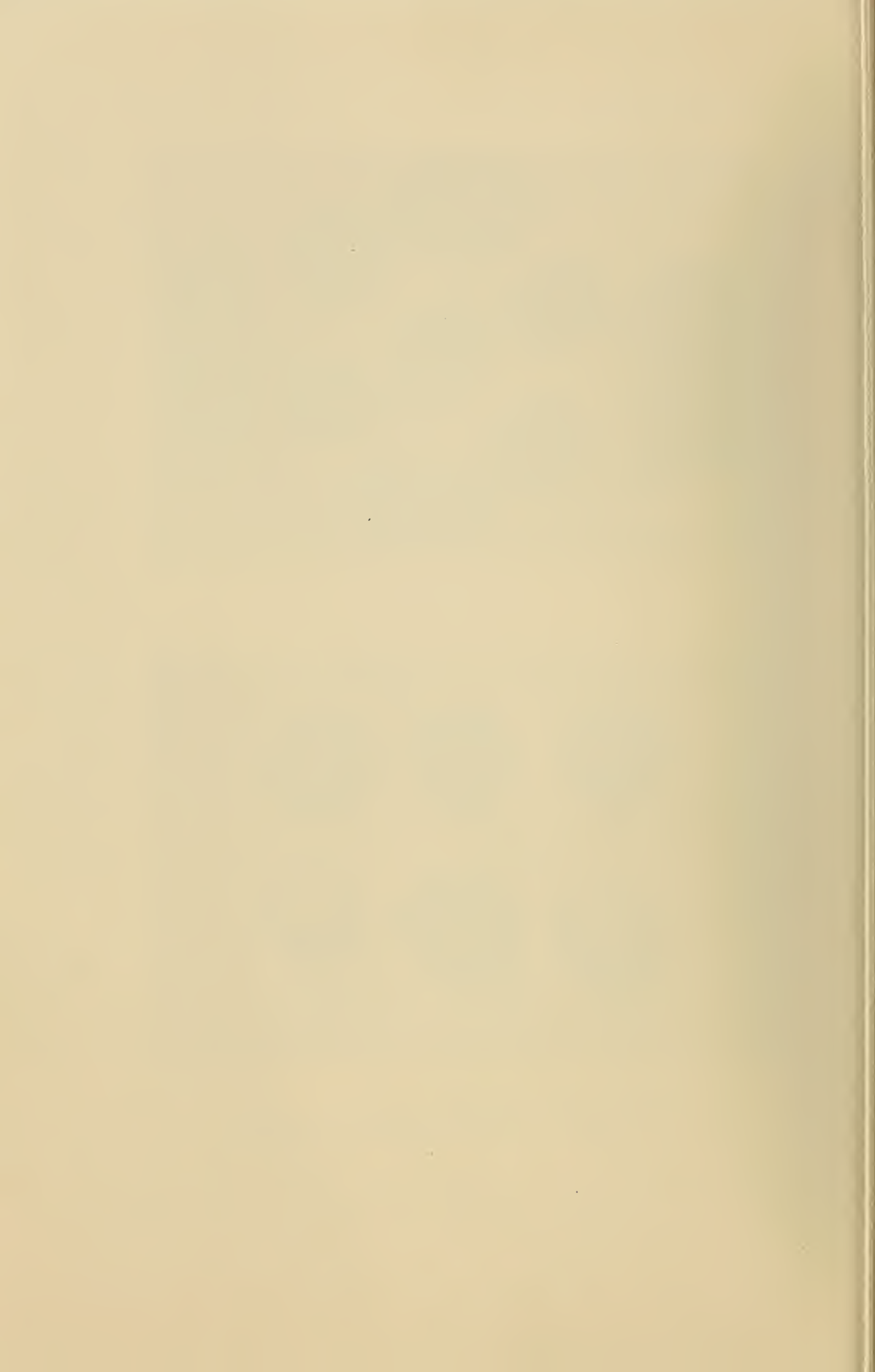
A

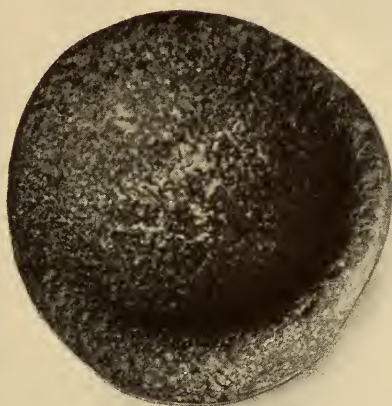


B

A. LENGTH OF *a*, 8½ INCHES.

B. DIAMETER OF PITTED HAMMERSTONE, *b*, 3½ INCHES.





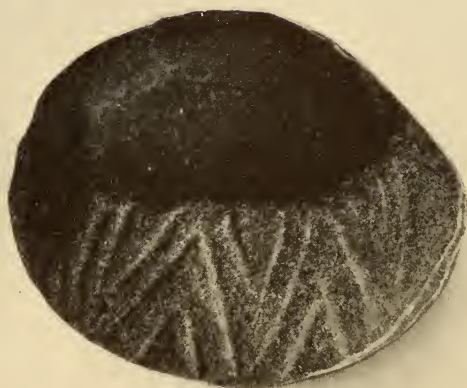
a



b



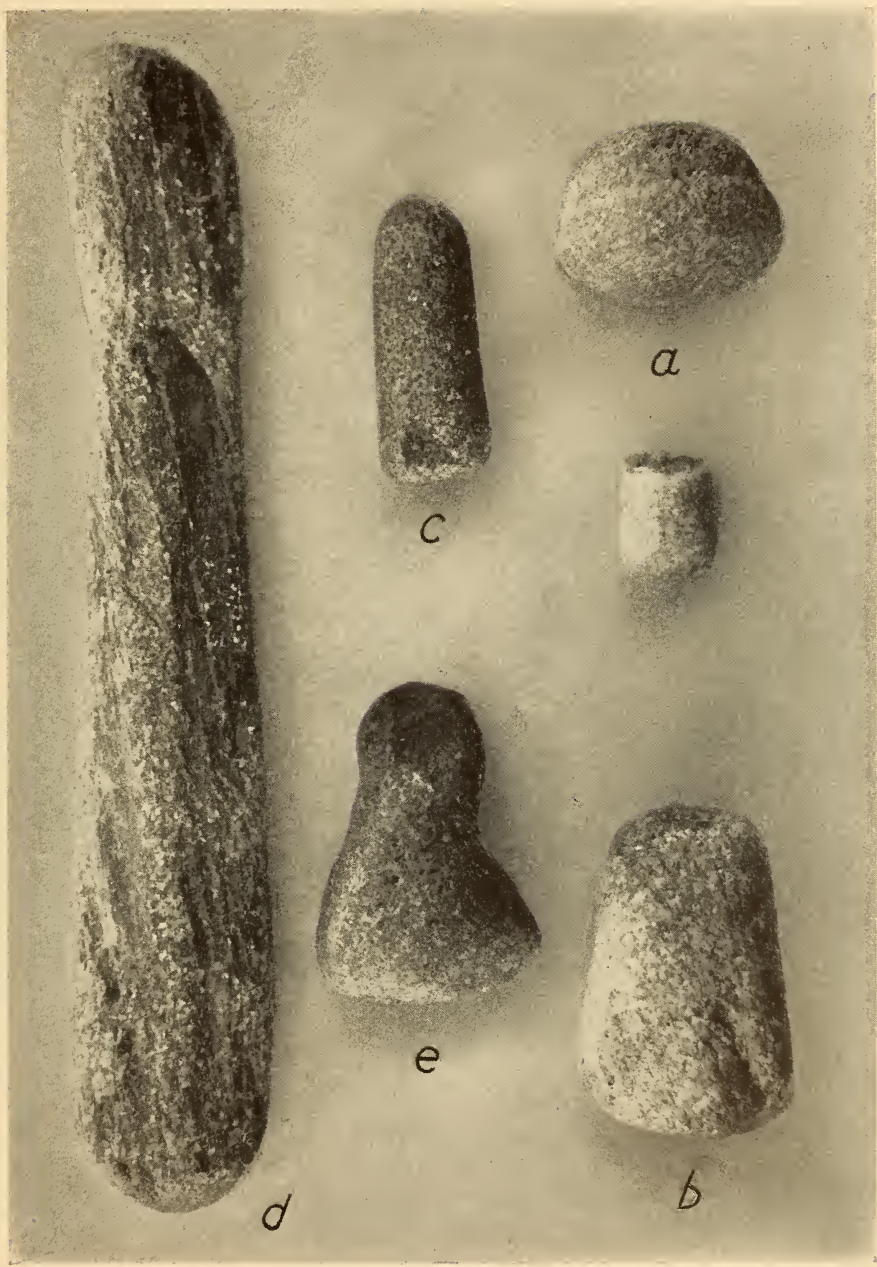
c



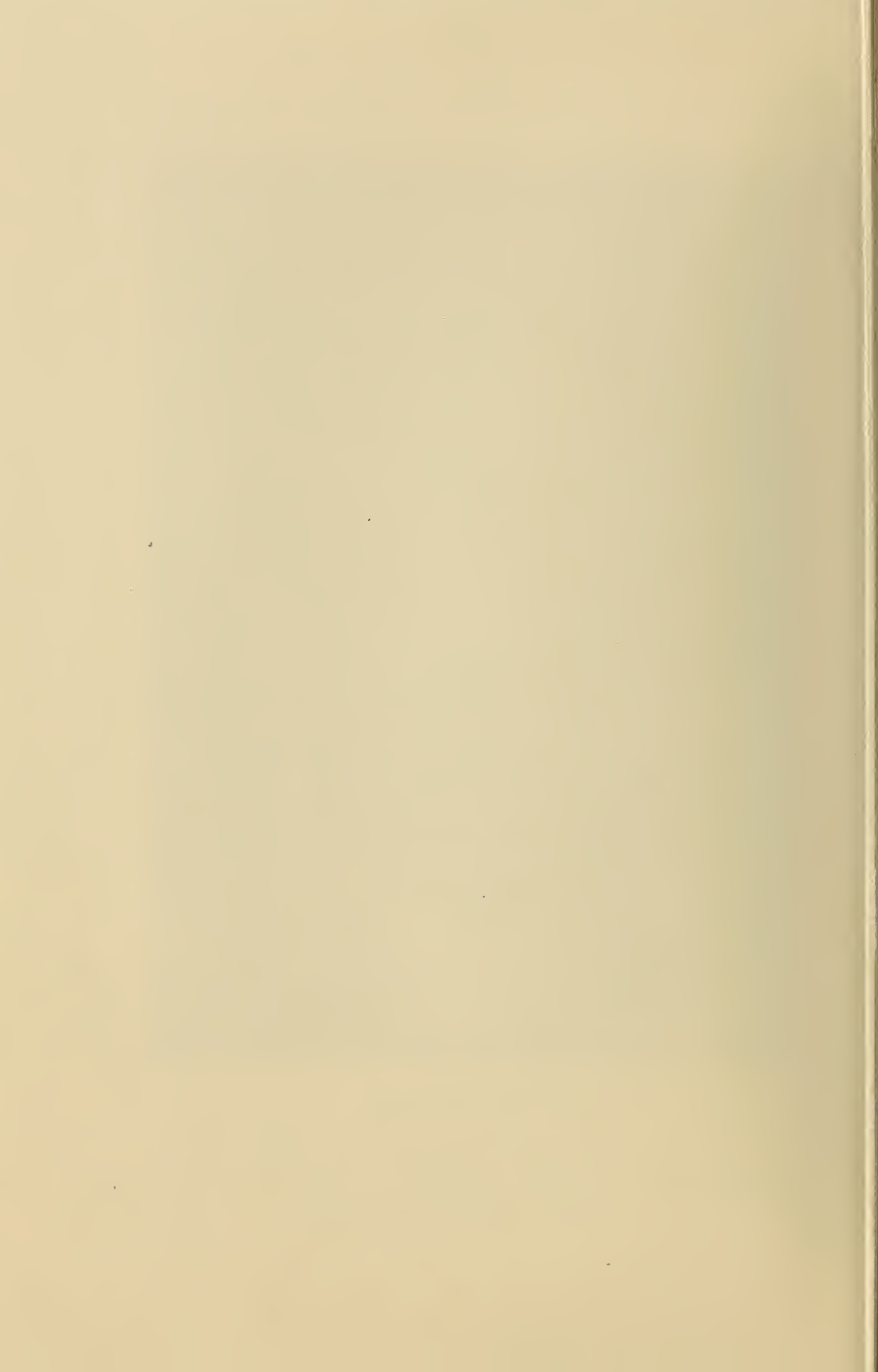
d

STONE MORTARS.
(WIDTH OF D, $3\frac{5}{16}$ INCHES.)



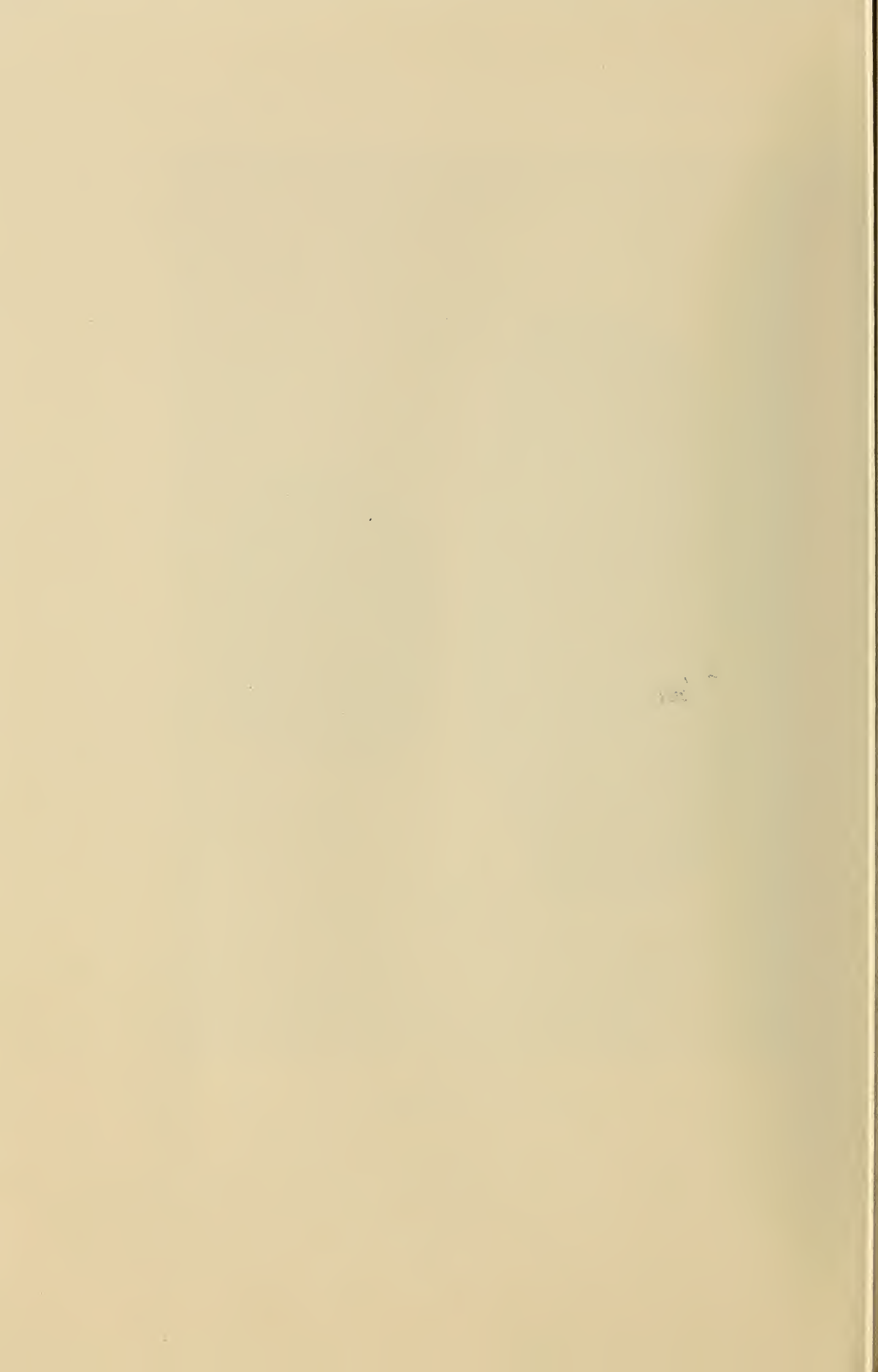


PESTLES.
(LENGTH OF D, 17 INCHES.)





GROOVED AXES.
(LENGTH OF A, $6\frac{1}{16}$ INCHES.)





PROBLEMATICAL STONE OBJECT.
(LENGTH, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ INCHES.)



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